GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4651
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
MALNUTRITION
C. SREENIVAASAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the World Bank report that malnutrition in India would cost the country about 1000 crore rupees in terms of loss of productivity, illness and deaths and would upset the efforts to reduce child mortality;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the name of the agency and the year in which the survey was conducted to ascertain malnutrition and its adverse effects; and

(d) the extent to which the malnutrition is prevalent in Tamil Nadu?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir. As per the report of World Bank, malnutrition would cost the country US $ 10 billion (Rs.1000 crores) in terms of loss of productivity, illness, and death, and set back efforts to reduce child mortality.

(b) Government have adopted the National Nutrition Policy, 1993 and National Plan of Action on Nutrition, 1995 (implemented by Ministry of Human Resource Development) to tackle the problem of under nutrition in the country.Various measures adopted by Government to improve the Nutrition status of population are as follows:

- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and for bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices, including promotion of breast-feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) Special Nutrition Programme(SNP);

(iii) Balvadi Nutrition Programme (BNP);

(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme; and

(v) Mid-Day Meal Programme.

- Prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders through programmes such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme.

(c)&(d) National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of ICMR conducts diet and nutrition surveys regularly in the country.The Bureau is also carrying out repeat surveys in rural areas of 10 states of the country. The prevalence of malnutrition as per latest survey figures (1996-97 repeat survey) in the State of Tamil Nadu is as below:

Malnutrition in 1-5 years children according to weight for age:

```
Mild   49.20%
Moderate  33.50%
Severe   2.90%
```